

In The Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An internal combustion engine having a crankshaft, comprising: a locking mechanism coupled to the crankshaft, said locking mechanism allowing crankshaft rotation in one direction only.

2. (Withdrawn) The engine of claim 1 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a freewheel clutch.

3. (Withdrawn) The engine of claim 2 wherein said freewheel clutch is positioned between a gearbox and the engine.

4. (Cancel)

5. (Cancel)

6. (Original) The engine of claim 5 wherein said locking mechanism comprises pins that engage with a gear coupled to the crankshaft.

7. (Withdrawn) The engine of claim 5 wherein said locking mechanism comprises ratchets that engage with a gear coupled to the crankshaft.

8. (Withdrawn) The engine of claim 5 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a friction belt that engages with the crankshaft.

9. (Original) A method for shutting down an internal combustion engine, comprising:

stopping the engine in a predetermined rest position wherein the predetermined rest position is such that motoring torque is decreasing during the first phase of restart; and

locking the engine in said predetermined rest condition via a locking mechanism.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the locking mechanism prevents engine rotation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said locking mechanism comprises pins that engage with a gear coupled to the crankshaft.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein said locking mechanism comprises ratchets that engage with a gear coupled to the crankshaft.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a friction belt that engages with the crankshaft.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the locking mechanism allows the engine to rotate in one direction only.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a freewheel clutch.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15 wherein said freewheel clutch is positioned between a gearbox and the engine.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein said locking mechanism comprises ratchets that engage with a gear coupled to the crankshaft.